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Pwnc | Subject: **Evidence to Petitions Committee on Greyhound Racing**

I submit this written evidence as a Senedd member who has a personal interest in banning greyhound racing. I have a 10 year old greyhound called Arthur who raced at Wimbledon racetrack, and over the 2 years he has been with us I have learned a lot about the sheer cruelty, on an industrial scale of this breed.

From what we know about Arthur, he came from a puppy farm in Ireland – he has his race number tattooed in both of his ears, which is a painful procedure for a young dog. One tattooed ear signifies that dogs are bred in England, two ears means Ireland. He raced for 3 years, sustaining a neck injury, and was then used for breeding until he was 5. The dog's home where we homed him from found him in quite awful conditions – his joints are now quite exposed as he has slept on a stone floor. A family had him for 6 months, but then returned him to the home. He then stayed in the home for over 2 years, ending up quite traumatised. He will not wear a coat, no matter if the temperature is in minus figures – we think this is because he wore racing bibs. He will not go into our house if the inner door is closed – we think this is because it remind him of a trap. At age 10, he is still very anxious, and his back legs are beginning to struggle.

The rescue home were amazing – they are specialists in greyhounds. When we collected Arthur, there were 65 other greyhounds awaiting a home.

We have looked after rescue dogs before, but never a greyhound. But Arthur is a wonderful dog – quiet, placid, gentle – and he sleeps 20 out of 24 hours a day. We will definitely have another greyhound – although we may need a bigger car next time.

So this is what I have learned about greyhound racing in the time I have had Arthur;

1. Greyhounds are bred for racing on an industrial scale – their transport and means of being looked after when racing is mainly in crates, and they sleep on concrete/cement floors

2. When they have finished racing – at around the age of 3 – many race tracks attempt to “get rid” of the greyhounds, with some being killed cruelly. We are aware of the cases of dogs suffering to death as the efforts to kill them are unsuccessful
3. The dogs homes create a good relationship with the racetracks in order to ensure that they are able to take the dogs that finish racing before they are disposed of in inhumane ways
4. Injuries sustained on the racetrack are often left untreated.
5. Greyhounds love to run, but not with a muzzle on (they become breathless). They should not be forced to do this.
6. Many are anxious and struggle to settle – the older they are, the more unsettled they become.

There is no need for greyhounds to end up being hurt and traumatised. We can stop this by banning racing. Even though the numbers of people who attend racetracks is dropping, we know the races are going online, and there is therefore a concern that there will be an increase. Greyhound racing is about making money – not for the local community, but for the betting industry. I hope there will be no more Arthurs.